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Transcript of Kennedy's News Conference

Following is a transcript of President Kennedy's news conference in the White House last night, as recorded by The New York Times:

PRESIDENT KENNEDY—

I have several statements to make first and I'll be glad to submit to questions.

Ambassador Stevenson in the Security Council today has expressed fully and clearly the attitude of the United States Government toward the attempt to undermine the effectiveness of the United Nations organization. The United States can take care of itself but the United Nations exists so that every nation can have the assurance of security. Any attempt to destroy this system is a blow aimed directly at the independence and security of every nation, large and small.

I am also, however, seriously concerned at what appears to be a threat of unilateral intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Congo.

I find it difficult to believe that any government is really planning to take so dangerous and irresponsible a step. Nevertheless, I feel it important that there should be no misunderstanding of the position of the United States in such an eventuality.

U. N. Support Pledged

The United States has supported and will continue to support the United Nations presence in the Congo.

The United States considers that the only legal authority entitled to speak for the Congo as a whole is a government established under the chief of state, President Kasavubu, who has been seated in the General Assembly of the United Nations by a majority vote of its members.

The broadening of the government under President Kasavubu is a quite legitimate subject of discussion and such discussions have been going on in Leopoldville and in New York. But the purported recognition of Congolese factions as so-called governments in other parts of that divided country can only confuse and make more difficult the task of securing Congolese independence and unity.

The United Nations offers the best, if not the only possibility for the restoration of conditions of stability and order in the Congo.

The press reports this afternoon that Prime Minister Nehru has stated and I quote: "If the United Nations goes out of the Congo it will be a disaster."

I strongly agree with this view. Only by the presence of the United Nations in the Congo can peace be kept in Africa.

I would conceive it to be the duty of the United States and indeed all members of the United Nations to defend the Charter of the United Nations by opposing any attempt to



Associated Press Wirephoto

DISCUSS STEPS TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT: President Kennedy talking yesterday at his office in White House with Gov. William W. Barron of West Virginia.

grams using funds now available.

Over \$250,000,000, as we have said, will be distributed immediately under the G. I. dividend program. There are \$4,000,000,000 for tax refunds which are coming due. As soon as those who are available for these refunds can put their application in we would attempt to stimulate and improve and quicken the distribution of these funds.

We provided under the instructions given through the State of the Union address for \$700,000,000 committed this month for additional Polaris submarines and airlift capacity.

Post Office Speed-up

In addition we are providing through the Post Office a speed-up in the program to build post offices which had been authorized and approved by the Congress previously, but these programs will be developed in a more concentrated period than they would otherwise have been.

For farmers we provided \$75,000,000 additional for loans to speed spring planting costs and also for farm home loans.

For the Federal highway construction program we are going to make \$734,000,000 to be available to the states this month. This program, of course, calls for action by the states and the local bodies. And we are sending tonight telegrams to all the state governors asking if they also can provide for a speed-up in their programs.

I want to make it clear that we are going to continue to work in cooperation with the governors and with the Congress—all agencies of the

President Doubts Gin Is in 'Public Interest'

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15—Newsmen laughed today at what sounded like a Presidential crack at liquor.

A questioner at President Kennedy's news conference asked what steps the Government was considering to stop Cuban exports to this country. He mentioned specifically shipments of molasses.

After discussing the general problem the President turned to molasses. He paused for a moment and said:

"It's going to be made, of course, into gin—and I'm not sure that is in the public interest."

your State of the Union Message will still be possible under the tense conditions that developed in the U. N. today?

A.—I hope that it will be possible for the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union to develop in such a way that the peace can be protected and that it will be possible for use to use our energies along peaceful and productive and fruitful lines.

The development of space, preventing of outer space from being used as a new area of war, of course, is of the greatest possible concern to the people of this country. I'm hopeful that it will be possible if relations between our countries can be maintained and can be channeled along peaceful lines; I'm hopeful that real progress can be made this year.

But it is my earnest hope

down doesn't hit you quite as hard. I think we have been in a recession for some months and that we have not recovered fully from the recession of '58, which is a matter, of course, of great concern. We're concerned because, while there was an economic slowdown in '49 and '54 and '58 we now have an economic slowdown only two years after the '58 recession. So this compounds our difficulties. I think that—well, to—to put it precisely to things, then I would call this a recession.

Q.—Mr. President, in line, sir, with your statement a moment ago that you hoped that you hoped that the relations between the United States and Russia would improve, Admiral A. Leigh Burke is quoted in some newspapers today in an interview in which he makes some rather sharp comments on American and Russian relations and among other things says that the United States Navy would sail into the Black Sea if it so chose. I'm asking, sir, is this in line with your Administration policy that all high officials should speak with one voice?

A.—I have been informed and perhaps Mr. Salinger [Pierre Salinger, press secretary] can correct me that that interview was given on Jan. 12, which was before the administration took over on Jan. 20 and before we gave any indication that we would make all statements to be dealing with national security, to be coordinated. I would say that this makes me happier than ever that such a directive was gone out. [Laughter.]

Q.—Mr. President, I'd like to change the scene here to Cuba, if I may for a moment. A member of Congress

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WASHINGTON, S. A.

FEB 16 1961

Admiral Burke's Views Disturb Pentagon Again

Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, is in trouble with his civilian superiors again—this time over an interview given a Greek newspaperman.

President Kennedy said last night he is "happier than ever" that he ordered co-ordination of all statements dealing with national policy, in view of the latest Burke statement. The interview, in written question and answer form, was given January 12 and cleared for policy and security within the Navy on January 16, according to the Navy. This was before Mr. Kennedy's inauguration.

Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, believes that even under the directives of the old administration the interview transcript should have been cleared by the office of the Secretary of Defense.

clear war of both the old and new administrations.

The Navy believes it has been complying strictly with new directives on co-ordination. A memorandum was sent by Admiral Burke to his subordinates, for instance, forbidding information leaks and ordering full co-operation with Defense information policies.

Trouble on Statements

Furthermore, Mr. Sylvester believes Admiral Burke has not been as co-operative as the other chiefs of staff in co-ordinating policy statements. As an example, he pointed out that interview transcripts of the same newspaperman, Elias Demetriou, of the Athens Daily Post, with other chiefs of staff had been double-checked with the new administration.

A question in the interview, distributed in this country by the North American Newspaper Alliance, said that Premier Khrushchev had said that "the Soviet Union will not tolerate (United States 6th Fleet) visits and exercises within the Black Sea."

Principle at Issue

Admiral Burke replied: "The Black Sea is an international body of water. . . . We will abide by (Soviet) regulations for her own territorial waters, as recognized by international law. But, in international waters we will go where we please and she won't stop us—neither will anybody else."

The Navy interprets this as a statement of the principle of freedom of the seas, but Mr. Sylvester believes announcements of American intentions in foreign areas should be left up to the State Department.

"Simple statements of the freedom-of-the-seas policy certainly are not ruled out," Mr. Sylvester said.

The interview also contained other statements that could be interpreted as in variance with

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CURRICULUM VITAE

ELIAS P. DEMETRACOPOULOS, Born in Athens. Father Archaeologist
single

Between 1950-1958, Political and Diplomatic Correspondent
for "KATHIMERINI" newspaper.

Presently Political Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent for
"MACEDONIA", "ATHENS DAILY POST" AND "ETHNOS" newspapers.

Since 1950 Correspondent for Greece and the Balkan Pres. for the
Big U.S. News Service - The North American Newspaper Alliance, (NANA).

Worked in the past as Correspondent for Time and Life, New York
Herald Tribune News Service and Path Finder.

During World War II, Prisoner of the Nazis.

Decorations:

1. Decorated by King Paul of Greece with the Golden Cross
of the Royal Order of King George I.
2. The Medal of Greek National Resistance, 1941-45.
3. The Golden Cross of St. Mark.
4. Officer of the Lebanese Order of Cedar.
5. Officer of the Order of the Republic of the U.A.R.
6. Officer of the Order of the Crown of Belgium.

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